



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

4 MARCH

BLESS: SERVE

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXTS: *John 13:1-17*

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' 7 Jesus replied, 'You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'

8 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'

9 'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'

10 Jesus answered, 'Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 13 'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord", and rightly so, for that is what I am.

14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

GETTING STARTED

Discuss: do people need to know how much you care before they care how much/what you know? Why/why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Luke 22:24-29. What is the context of John 13:1-17? What is greatness?

2. (a) Give at least three reasons why Jesus washing the disciples' feet is an amazing example of a difficult obedience (sacrificial act of service) done well. *Hint:* washing feet is a servant/slave's job; Jesus knows something of the suffering He's about to face; Jesus washed Judas' feet. (b) What difficult obediences have you avoided?

3. Look at verse 3 carefully. (a) What did Jesus know that gave Him the courage and strength to serve so sacrificially? (b) What is a believer's hope and how can we be more confident about it so we can serve with greater security?

4. What does Jesus' act of service point towards? How can our acts of service point people to the cross?

NEXT STEPS & PRAYER

5. Ask people to give an update on how they're getting on putting BLESS and 40Acts into practice.

6. Ask people to share one difficult obedience they are prompted to do in light of the study. Make a record with a view to reporting back the next time you meet.

7. Pray for each other to be winsome and bold witnesses for Jesus (Acts 1:8).

COMING UP

iWitness | 4 Feb -18 March
Belonging | 4 – 18 March
Prayer Meeting | 14 March
Vision & Giving Day | 18 March
Palm Sunday | 25 March
Good Friday | 30 March
Easter Sunday | 1 April